Statement-II

Stock of foodgrains as on 1st of April, for the last three years

(fig. in lakh tonnes)

2000	Rice	157.19
	Wheat	131.87
	Total	289.06
2001	Rice	231.91
	Wheat	215.04
	Total	446.95
2002	Rice	249.12
	Wheat	260.39
	Total	509.51

Shortage of storage capacity

2989. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge public stocks of foodgrains which are deteriorating because of shortage of storage space;

(b) if so, the steps taken to prevent such a mishap; and

(c) since future demand, supply outcomes are uncertain, what concrete plan is to be shaped for proper storage, supply, etc. of the foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total stocks of foodgrains available in the Central Pool as on 1st March 2003, was 36.19 million tonnes. Out of this stock, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) is holding 19.93 million tonnes stocks of foodgrains against the total storage capacity of 32.39 million tonnes all over the country. Thus, at present, the FCI is having vacant storage space of 12.46 million tones (as on 28.2.2003). Foodgrains are stored in a scientific manner in the FCI godowns and regular prophylactic and curative treatments are carried out for the preservation of the foodgrains.

(c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), the FCI has proposed to construct its own storage capacity of 6.42 lakh MTs all

over the country to meet future demand and supply. Out of this a storage capacity of 0.79 lakh MTs has been realised upto February 2003. Besides, Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and State Warehousing Corporations (SWCs) have also created storage capacity of about 6 million tonnes under seven years guarantee scheme in the main procuring States.

The following steps have been taken by the Government of India to utilize the foodgrains over and above the buffer norms:

(i) The allocation of foodgrains has been increased from 25 Kgs to 35 Kgs per family per month for the consumers under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

(ii) The sale of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) would be continued under Open Market Sale Scheme (OMSS) without quantitative restrictions at the prices to be determined by the High Level Committee of the FCI upto 31.3.2004.

(iii) The export of rice, wheat and wheat products would be continued till 31.3.2004 without quantitative restrictions subject to the condition that the stocks in Central Pool will not be lower than the buffer stock of 243 lakh MTs (100 lakh MT rice and 143 lakh MT wheat)

(iv) The foodgrains are being issued under various welfare schemes like Mid-day-Meal scheme etc. at BPL rates instead of economic prices.

(v) Wheat and rice being issued @ Rs. 2 & Rs. 3/Kg. respectively to the "poorest of the poor" families under the Anotodaya Anna Yojana (AAY).

(vi) Additional allocation of foodgrains have been made on "free of cost" basis under the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and the special component of the SGRY.

Restructuring of FCI

†2990. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any suggestions to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.